



Crime Prevention Week

November 1-7, 2011

Prepare – Prevent – Protect

Wire Theft

Day 3: November 3, 2011

What is Metal & Wire Theft?

Metal theft is a growing and challenging problem that tends to be underestimated. Both local and international supply and demand strongly influence wire and metal theft. Local wire and metal theft problems can be linked to international demand and high prices.

Thieves target all kinds of metals. Theft can include catalytic converters in cars, copper boat propellers, metal roof gutters and fencing. Wire from street lamp and telephone cables are also vulnerable, as well as vacant buildings and homes under construction.

Thieves use a variety of methods to locate and steal wire and metal. Some have posed as renovation contractors while stripping copper from vacant homes. Others have been known to use resources such as GOOGLE EARTH to identify large amounts of metal (such as spools of wire) stored outdoors.

Costs due to damage done by theft to commercial, residential or City of Surrey property can easily outweigh the value of the stolen items.

How does metal & wire theft impact you?

- 9-1-1- service disruptions
- Threats to infrastructure and public safety (hospitals, emergency response systems)
- Power outages – e.g. electricity, heating, street and traffic lights, highway advance warning signs
- Communication systems such as phone, television and internet service outages
- Increases to service costs and added resource demands.

Report it: it's Easy

Do your part to make our community safer.

Emergency 9-1-1 For crime in progress

RCMP Non-emergency 604.599.0502
For all other reports

Crime Stoppers There are 4 ways to leave an anonymous tip:

TALK 1.800.222.TIPS (8477)

TYPE www.solvecrime.ca

TEXT TIP Text 'BCTIP' and send your tip to CRIMES (274637)

FACE BOOK

www.facebook.com/metrovancouvercrimestoppers

City of Surrey

Lamp Standards & City property:

604.591.4338 (8:30am - 4:30pm weekdays)

City Emergency Afterhours: 604.591.4431

BC HYDRO Report all suspicious activity near substations, transmission lines, distribution boxes, and under bridges 1.877.311.8611

TELUS 911 crime in progress

604.310.3131 (phone line repair)

If you see wire or metal being stolen, call 9-1-1. (crime in progress)

If you witness a person loitering at a power or street light pole, even with an identifiable uniform, call the non-emergency number to request police to verify the work being done.

What to look for

- Smell of burning rubber (indicates thieves burning insulation off stolen wire).
- People digging under roadways or underpasses for metal tubing
- Covers removed off street light poles or junction boxes
- Wires hanging out of covers or compartments
- People transporting odd or large amounts of wire or metal